



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Tom Morrison MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MP ref: TM04225
MoJ ref: MC121125

17 February 2025

Dear Tom,

WEDDING LAW REFORMS

Thank you for your email of 28 January, addressed to the Home Office, on behalf of your constituents regarding wedding venues. Your email has been redirected to the Ministry of Justice, and I am responding as the Minister with responsibility for marriage law and policy.

As you note in your correspondence, your constituents are aware of the Law Commission's 2022 report on weddings law. This report made 57 recommendations for the wholesale reform of weddings law, including recommendations for a new officiant-based weddings model. An officiant-based model would shift the current focus of regulation of weddings from the building or venue where the wedding takes place to the officiant.

As part of this proposed new model for weddings law, the Law Commission recommended removing the need for venues to be pre-approved for weddings and enabling couples to marry in any location so long as it is safe and dignified. The Law Commission also set out its view that its recommendations would provide greater choice for couples in deciding how and where they get married, including on the form and content of the ceremony.

I am sure you and your constituents will agree with me that marriage will always be one of our most important institutions, and we have a duty to consider any changes to the law carefully. I hope you will understand that as a new Government we need time to consider this issue, and that we will set out our position on weddings reform in the coming months.

Kind regards,

LORD PONSONBY OF SHULBREDE