

The Rt Hon. The Lord Strathclyde CH  
Chair, Constitution Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

**MoJ ref:** SUB127780

2 October 2025

Dear Lord Strathclyde,

### **WEDDINGS REFORM**

I am writing to you to confirm that the Government has today announced that it will be reforming weddings law in England and Wales when parliamentary time allows, with a view to undertaking a public consultation on the detail of reform early next year. Given the importance of marriage as an institution, the consultation will include a consideration of how the seemly and dignified nature of wedding ceremonies will be protected. Our reforms will be underpinned by two key features, as recommended by the Law Commission's 2022 report *Celebrating Marriage: A New Weddings Law*:

First, the legal framework will shift from a system based on the regulation of buildings to one focused on the regulation of the officiant responsible for the wedding ceremony. This change will remove restrictions on where weddings take place, provided ceremonies meet strict requirements to ensure they remain seemly and dignified.

Second, we will introduce a single set of universal rules for all weddings, with the exception of Anglican weddings. This will remove the wide range of inconsistencies in the current law, simplify the process of getting married and will enable us to create a level playing field for all groups. As a consequence of these changes, humanist celebrants will be able to conduct legally binding weddings in England and Wales for the first time.

However, weddings reform is about much more than just weddings law; it is about marriage and its meaning in society. Weddings mark the beginning of marriage, a lifelong partnership that provides emotional support, financial security, and legal protections. Because marriage plays a vital role in society, we want to protect and strengthen the institution through weddings reform while giving couples greater choice and flexibility to marry in a way that is meaningful to them. Reforms will also support the Government's mission to Kickstart Economic Growth, boosting the economy by an estimated £535 million over a decade, creating 12,000 jobs in the wedding sector, and making weddings more affordable for couples.

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My officials will continue to engage with a wide range of interested groups to build consensus on the remaining policy details in the lead up to, and throughout, the upcoming consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Baroness Levitt', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end.

**THE BARONESS LEVITT KC**

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