



Marriage Law Reform

Public consultation
Summary of findings



States of
Guernsey

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Introduction

The current marriage law dates back to 1919 and sets out the requirements for the formalities of a civil marriage, such as the notification periods, where marriage can take place and requirements for those who conduct the marriage ceremony (celebrants). Over time, the law has been added to and changed, but has never been reviewed or updated as a whole.

In June 2017, the Policy & Resources Committee undertook to reform the law, as part of the Policy & Resource Plan, approved by the States of Deliberation. This was with the intention to simplify and modernise the law and to ensure that it was inclusive.

During June and July 2018, views were sought from the public on the potential changes to how marriages are conducted in the Bailiwick, including consideration of ceremonies being held in more locations, more celebrants being authorised to conduct legally recognised ceremonies and suggestions to simplify the procedures and formalities, whilst maintaining sufficient safeguards against forced or sham marriages.

Any statements included have been included as originally collected and the responses received should not be considered representative of the views of the entire population.

The review considered:

- ▶ The draft changes to policy proposed by the Same Sex Marriage working group including wider options for venues and outdoor locations, times, celebrants, notice and residency periods;
- ▶ What other options, not already identified, might be made to modernize and simplify the current civil marriage formalities, whilst ensuring the appropriate controls are in place against illegal, forced and sham marriages;
- ▶ Whether to incorporate the elements of who can be married within the revised marriage formalities, such as the age of consent and the restrictions on marrying within prohibited degrees of kinship;
- ▶ The impact of the proposed changes on policy, legislation and stakeholders;
- ▶ The views of those that will be affected by the changes;
- ▶ The legislation changes required to support the proposed policy changes; and
- ▶ How the recommended changes will be managed and implemented.

Summary of findings

The survey ran from 4th June to 13th July 2018 and in total, there were 361 responses.

When publishing the survey it was recognised that not all of the issues and questions within the survey would be relevant to all the community, but it was felt appropriate to consult broadly on these matters to hear the community's views on the potential changes.

Whilst there were some diverse opinions, most of the proposals were widely supported.



There was strong support for:

96%
245

Marriage ceremonies to take place in more locations than currently including in more venues **(203)**, outside **(205)** and in territorial waters **(162)**.

94%
239

Non-religious belief celebrants should be authorised to conduct legally recognised marriages

91%
241

Giving Notice by email and online

87%
275

Just one authority type instead of three, as currently

85%
224

Confirming immigration status before giving Notice of Marriage

80%
212

Notice of marriage to be given a year in advance of the marriage date

78%
199

Non-religious belief celebrants should meet certain requirements before being authorised to perform marriages, such as standards or qualifications

75%
184

Including religious content in civil ceremonies but not conducting the ceremony as a religious ceremony

74%
181

Couples deciding whether the ceremony location is open to the public

55%
134

Freedom of choice in relation to where couples can choose to marry

53%
129

No additional requirements needed for buildings, other than the existing legal requirements

There was majority support for:

68%
21

Documents continuing to be verified in person

55%
173

Details of a planned marriage continuing to be made available to the public, with a preference for the noticeboard at the Greffe and online, on a dedicated webpage;

45%
111

People should be allowed to marry at whatever time they wish.

44%
107

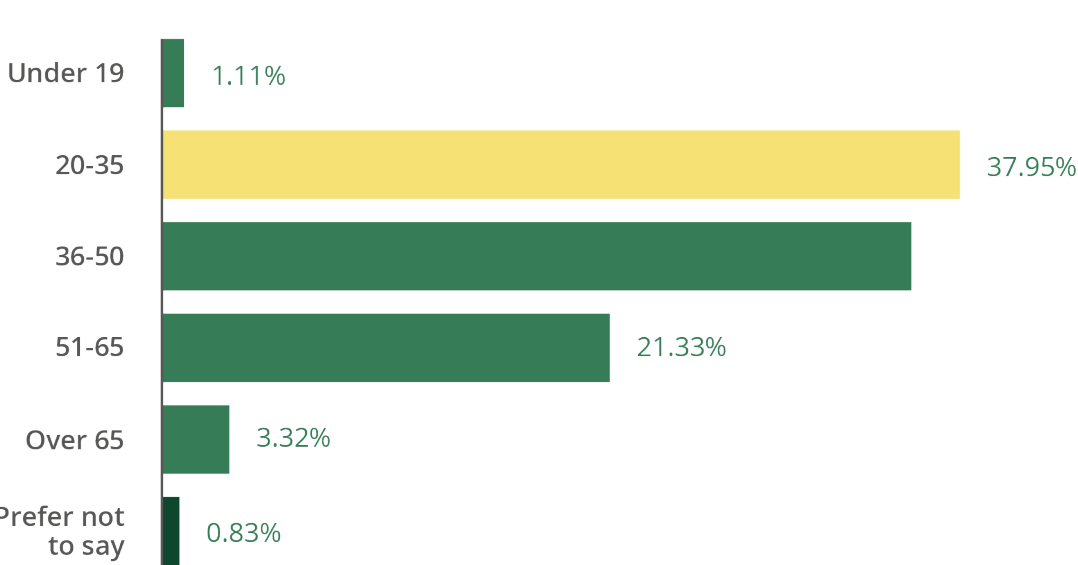
There is no need for time constraints, but it should be agreed with the celebrant and venue prior to Notice of Marriage being given

Part 1

Categorising the responses received

Question 1 Age group

There were 361 responses to this question. Most of the respondents, (137, 37.95%) were between the ages of 20 and 35 years old. Three (0.83%) respondents preferred not to say.



Question 2 Where are you normally resident?

From the 361 responses the majority of respondents 342 (94.74%) were normally resident in Guernsey. Two (0.55%) respondents were Alderney residents and ten (2.77%) respondents were normally resident in the UK. Under 'elsewhere' there were seven responses (1.94%), three (0.83%) were from Jersey, one (0.275%) was resident in Singapore and another was resident in the Netherlands. One of the 'elsewhere' responses was responding on behalf of humanists who have residents across the UK and Crown Dependencies. The final response in this category was an incomplete answer.

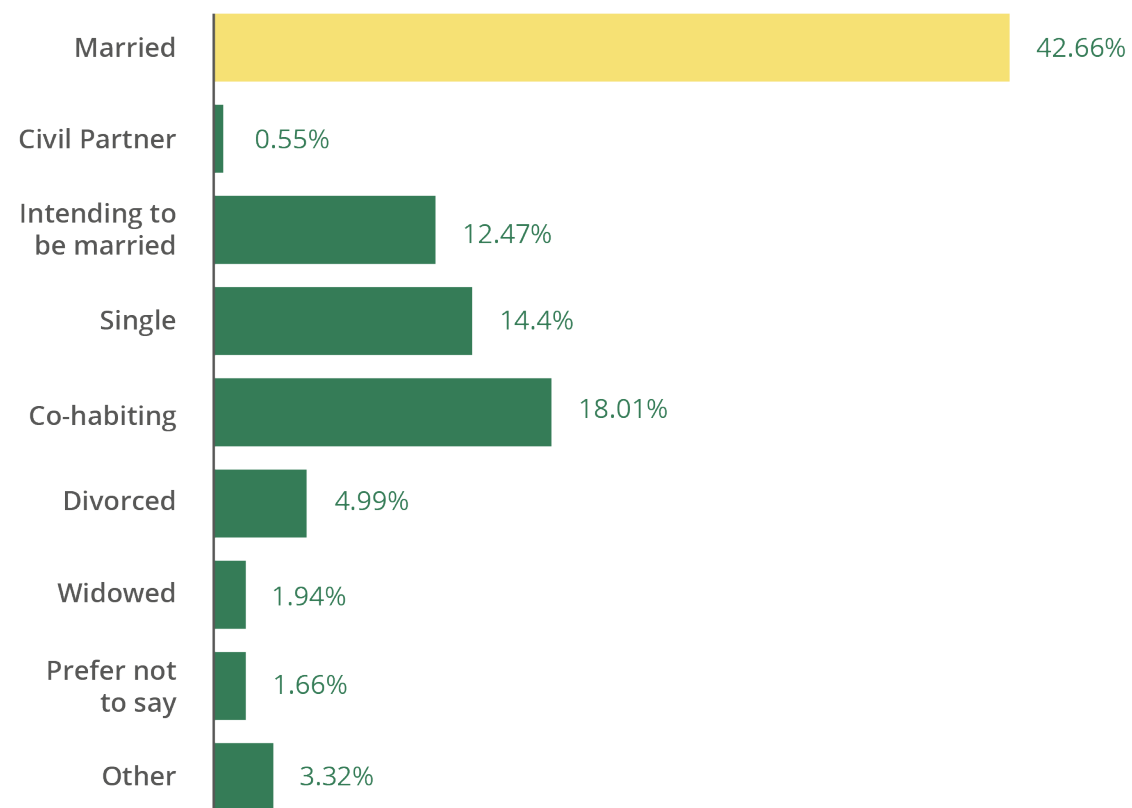




Question 3

What is your marital status?

Of the 361 responses to this question 154 (42.66%) respondents were married and 65 (18.01%) were co-habiting. There were 12 responses (3.32%) 'other' responses. Of these four (1.1%) respondents were intending to be married, but not within 12 months, two respondents were separated with another separated but not legally, another respondent was in the process of divorce, three respondents were in a relationship, but not co-habiting and one response was incomplete.

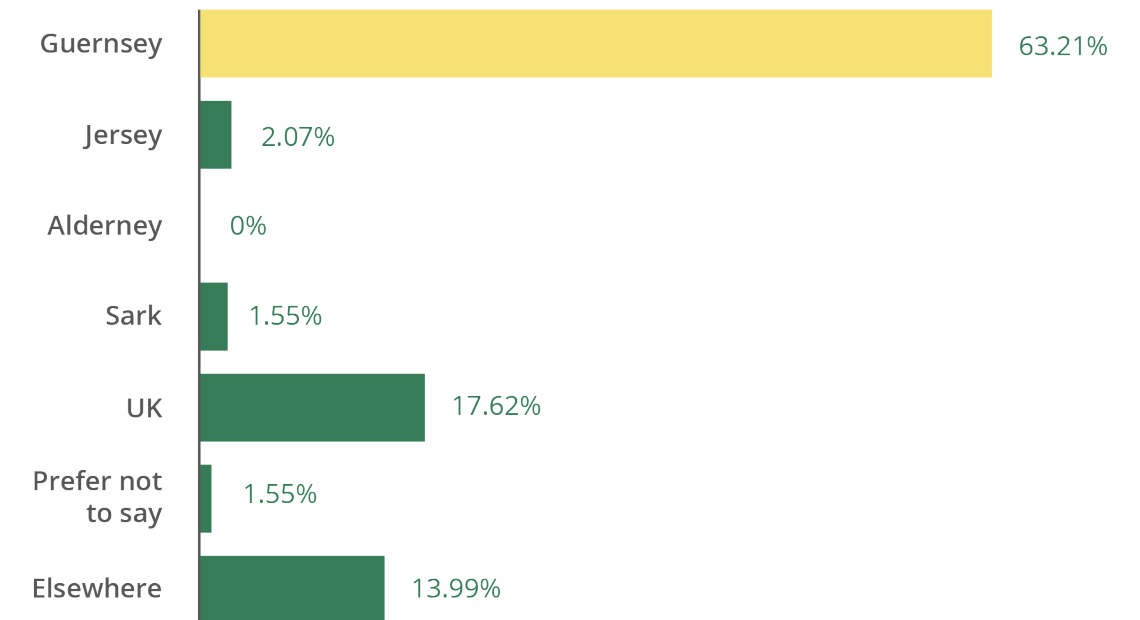


Question 4

If married or in a civil partnership, where was this carried out?

193 respondents answered this question. The majority of respondents 122 (63.21%) were married in Guernsey. The 27 (13.99%) respondents who answered elsewhere mentioned:

N/A – 7, Europe – 7, Australia - 4, the Americas - 4, Asia – 3, the Caribbean – 2.



Part 2

Views on the marriage preliminaries



Question 5

Do you agree with the proposed change to have just one authority type?

Of the 316 responses to this question, 275 (87.03%) agreed with the proposed change to have just one authority type.



There were six comments

"I suggest that there may need to be a special licence for use in emergencies, when notice cannot be given."

Scotland can both authorise their own celebrants. Marriage is booming in Scotland as a result of good social policy here."

"It would make sense for the preliminaries to be as uniform as possible across the different types of marriage ceremony, in order to provide equality of access."

"Easier to understand and admin."

"I feel this has some loopholes and pitfalls. More consultation on this is required."

"I think the ideal situation is the operation of the law in Scotland, where bodies like the Church of Scotland and Humanist Society

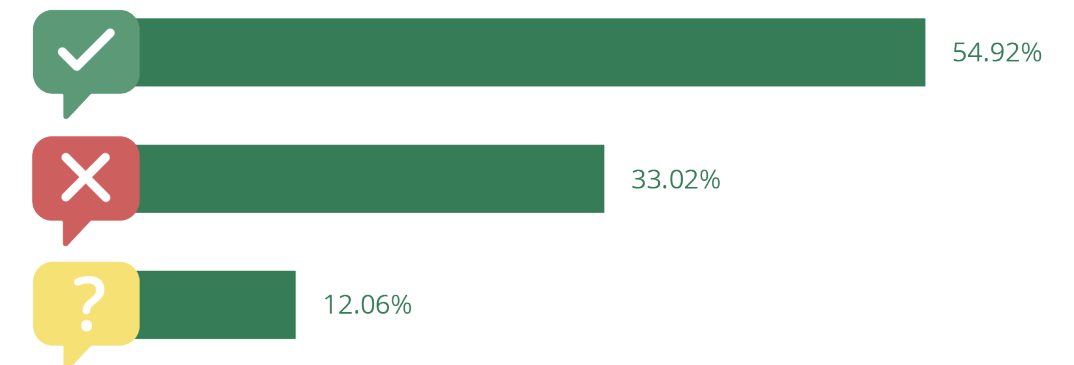
"Leave the Church alone and stop attacking it. The ecclesiastical court should remain responsible for church marriages."



Question 6

Do you agree that the details of a planned marriage should continue to be made available to the public?

Of the 315 responses, just over half of the respondents 173 (54.92%) agreed that details of a planned marriage should continue to be made available to the public. While 104 (33.02%) did not agree.



There were 28 comments received, which were mixed, with some respondents seeing publication as a safeguard and others seeing it as an invasion of privacy, as follows -

- ▶ 14 respondents commented that making the details public is not necessary/ relevant anymore;
- ▶ Two noted that this could be done online;
- ▶ Five believed that the choice should be given to the couple;
- ▶ Two respondents did not mind if this was public or not; and
- ▶ Four saw it as a necessary safeguard;
- ▶ One stated no comment.



Question 7

How do you think the details of the marriage, the notice, should be published?

207 respondents answered this question, of these 130 (62.8%) ticked that details should be 'published online, on a dedicated webpage' and 110 (53.14%) selected 'on the noticeboard at the Greffe'. Nine (4.34%) of the 'other' responses noted newspaper as an option, two respondents noted that it should be down to couples to choose how this should be published, one commented that they did not mind how it was published and the final comment suggested the local douzaine.



110

On the noticeboard at the greffe



13

On an app



130

Online, on a dedicated webpage



59

All of the above



13

Other



Question 8

Do you have any comments on the proposal to extend the formal notice period (when the Notice will be made available to the public) to 28 days before the authority to marry can be issued?

In total, there were 88 comments although 56 (63.63%) of these were 'No' comments. Of the remaining comments, eight (9.09%) believed the notice period was too long, 13 (14.80%) respondents saw it as a positive change and sensible to be in line with other jurisdictions. Two (2.27%) respondents raised the issue of needing a shorter notice period in exceptional circumstances. Seven (7.95%) respondents questioned why you should be able to object to someone being married and why this should be published. One (1.13%) comment believed the notice period should only be sufficient to enable the required checks to be undertaken, while another comment (1.13%) stated there was need to be clear if the 28 days were working days or calendar days.

Some of the comments were:

"If this is deemed necessary this period should certainly be drastically reduced."

"I think the notice period should only be sufficient to enable the required checks to be undertaken."

"It seems a logical improvement."

"Should be shortened not extended."

"The public should not have this information."

"There might be pressing reasons to get married at short notice, e.g. One of the parties is in the armed forces and without

notice called up to a conflict, or late diagnosis of terminal illness, or in a terminal illness or serious accident make a late decision to marry. There should be a mechanism to allow for unforeseen circumstances."

"Seems sensible to be in line with other jurisdictions on this one and a reasonable safeguard to 'Vegas' spur of moment marriages."

"Makes sense to come in line with other jurisdictions. Very few people want to get married quicker than a month from announcing it!"





Question 9

Do you have any comments on the proposal to continue to verify documents in person a minimum of the day before the marriage?

Overall there were 83 comments, 46 (55.42%) comments were 'no'. Of the remaining comments 21 (25.30%) were in favour of documents continuing to be verified in person. Eight (9.63%) comments mentioned more time should be given before the marriage. Three (3.61%) respondents believed there could now be digital checks. Two (2.41%) respondents were unsure. One (1.21%) comment mentioned that the Greffe should be open on Saturdays. Another comment (1.21%) mentioned that in certain situations a representative of the Greffe could travel to the couple, while a further comment (1.21%) said it was old fashioned.

Some of the comments were:

"Longer period to ensure verification is accurate."

"This would make sense and would allow wedding tourism on island."

"Should definitely be done in person."

"Digital checks should now be possible, so a provision for both methods should be considered."

"Change to week before the marriage."

"It should absolutely remain!!"

"There should certainly be verification and safeguards against sham marriages should be rigorous."

"It is absurd to have to appear in person. It should be able to be done electronically."

"None, other than this process should be investigated as a potential target for digitization."

"It is the simplest method in my opinion."

"Yes although perhaps in certain circumstances the representative of the Greffe could travel to the couple rather than insisting they visit the office (disability etc) ie offer some flexibility while still ensuring the checks are on island in person."

"Only that the Greffe should be open on Saturdays (perhaps AM only) so people can collect license when convenient to them."

"Couples need to know very clearly that if they leave the verification to the day before and there is an issue they might not be able to marry. I would suggest making it 5 working days minimum. I assume people have to book this verification in with the Greffier in any event in advance."

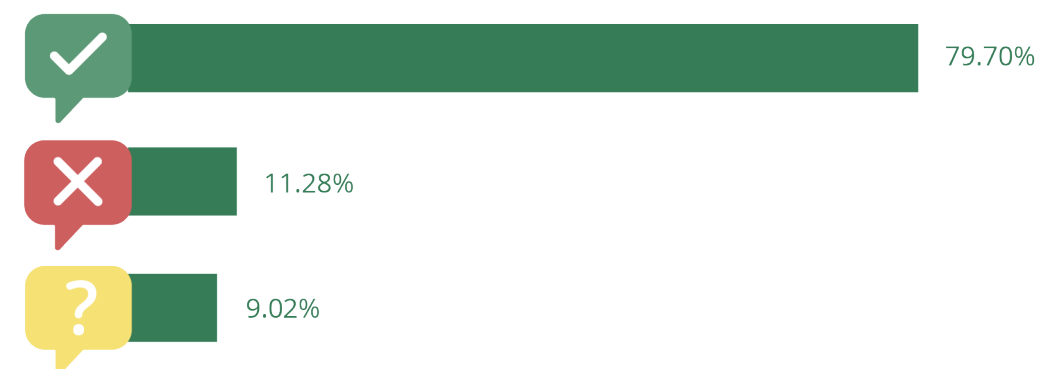
"The danger of such a short gap between the verification of documents and the marriage is that there is little time to rectify and problems that emerge in the document check."



Question 10

Do you agree with the proposal to allow notice to be given a year before the marriage date?

There were 266 responses to this question. 212 (79.7%) respondents answered 'yes', while 30 (11.28%) replied 'no'. There were 14 comments received, five suggesting that the notice could be shorter than a year and four that agreed with allowing notice a year before the marriage date. Two comments thought the notice should be longer than a year, one respondent commented that the notice should be given at anytime and one comment stated that the notice should be made public. The final comment stated that there should be no need to give notice.





Question 11

Do you agree with the proposal to enable the giving of Notice of Marriage to be made by email and online?

270 respondents answered this question, of these 241 (90.67%) agreed that giving Notice of Marriage should be possible both online and by email. There were 21 comments on this question, which were mainly positive.



Some of the comments were:

"Absolutely - reflects the digital age in which we live"

"As long as the appropriate safeguards are in place to verify identities"

"I worry about being hacked"

"Yes but need to ensure safeguards re trafficking and/or forced marriage are considered"

"Again, let's be open for business and make it easy for people to choose Guernsey as a wedding destination."

"Given the opening hours of the offices, this will make life much easier for couples and of course since documents still need to

be verified in person before the marriage there is not a significant risk of identity being mistaken."

"As a marriage is an important life event, the parties involved should have to give notice in person, whether resident or non-resident. To accommodate modern work life, perhaps a 'late night opening' until 7pm one evening a fortnight, or for a period on a weekend at the Greffe would enable working people to attend in person to give notice to this life changing event"

"I would be concerned about verification of documents over email as this is rather insecure. Online direct to a secure portal at the Greffe would be more secure."



Question 12

Do you agree with this proposed change to confirm immigration status before giving Notice of Marriage?

There were 263 replies to this question, of which 224 (85.17%) respondents agreed that immigration status should be confirmed before giving Notice of Marriage.



The majority of the nine comments were in favour to the proposed change:

"Essential, given the increased mobility of people, and the importance of ensuring that there are no legal reasons why the marriage should not proceed - and to minimize the risk of 'sham' or forced marriages."

"No comments"

"Again, it allows time to ensure the bride is not a victim of trafficking etc"

"We could have a service in marrying people from abroad with the right checks"

"Immigration law has a poor track record on separating couples or families for no good reason. Would

this requirement risk couples where one or both partner(s) is non-local being treated unjustly?"

"Cannot answer question without more info on possible negative repercussions"

"More efficient approach"

"Great idea - get on with it"

"This needs to be considered along the lines of a new stream of revenue for destination wedding tourism. We should be encouraging destination tourism (obviously in this situation those coming here need to have the right paperwork/visa's etc. to be allowed to come to Guernsey.)"

Part 3

Views on the ceremony, celebrants, locations, times and privacy



Question 13

Do you agree that non-religious belief celebrants should be authorised to conduct legally recognised marriages?

Overall, there were 254 responses to this question. The majority of these responses, 239 (94.09%), were 'yes'.



There were nine comments from those who did not agree:

"The current system is used in many jurisdictions, with two ceremonies. This is also the case in the UK when one is a foreign national. The problem is working out WHO should be authorised?"

"Sacred ceremony, need to be careful who conducts it"

"Because we do not need to follow every new trend."

"Assuming that there is some form of recognition of official status of celebrant."

"The important thing is, humanists should be allowed to conduct a ceremony in more than the current permitted places (i.e. a beach would be nice), and also on any day. Rather than having to have the legal part at Greffe one day, and a ceremony another."

"Celebrants would need to be licensed (renewable annually) and undergo training and vetting."

"Someone official and non-religious should do it for everybody (Greffe etc..)"

"My cousin had a humanist 'wedding' and it was pretty dreadful. Keep it to statutory officials and proper Clergy please. I'd have no objection to allowing Roman Catholics and non CofE [Church of England] ministers to perform the ceremony."

"Or the Greffier could work on a Sat. and anywhere people choose!"

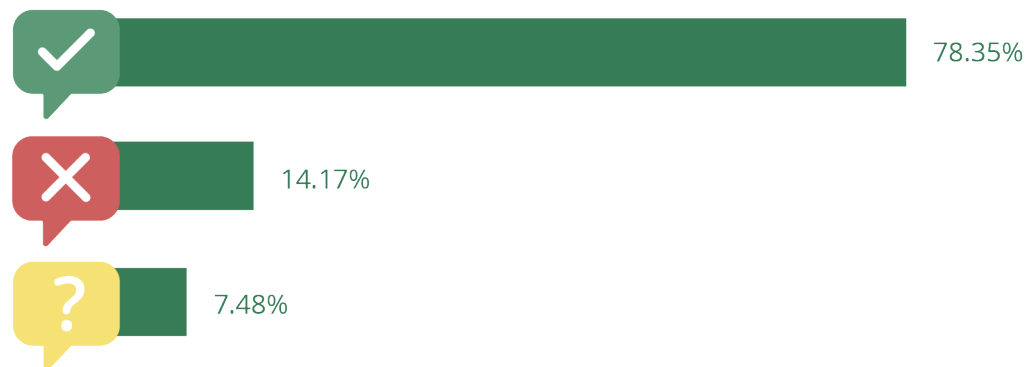




Question 14

Do you think non-religious belief celebrants should have to meet certain requirements before being authorised to perform marriages, such as standards or qualifications?

From the 254 responses to this question, the majority of respondents, 199 (78.35%) respondents replied 'yes'. There were 28 comments made on this question. 18 comments agreed that celebrants should meet certain requirements. Three comments suggested that other jurisdictions such as Scotland could be used as an example. Two respondents believed that no requirements would be necessary as long as the celebrant stated this. Two comments noted that requirements should also apply to religious celebrants. Of the remaining comments, one believed that non-religious belief celebrants should not be allowed to perform marriages, one commented that Greffe officials should work at weekends and the one noted that being able to have one marriage ceremony would allow non-religious couples to share the same experience as Anglican couples.



Some of the comments were:

"This is absolutely essential - to protect the couple and to ensure that the importance of marriage is recognised. Humanist celebrants are trained and accredited. Only celebrants who have received training, accreditation, safeguarding checks and adequate insurance should be permitted to act as celebrants - a 'free for all' would be highly regrettable. The recently approved Jersey model has much to commend it."

"If it is agreed, then some form of official qualification needs to be attained to ensure due process and a meaningful ceremony, it cannot just be Great Aunt Mary!"

"The celebrant should share the same beliefs as the couple, however allowing a close friend or family member etc to be the celebrant should be allowed if they are given the opportunity to meet the requirements"

"Similar requirements as other jurisdictions eg Scotland, I would imagine."

"Not necessary so long as they make it transparent that they are not qualified"

"But so should religious celebrants"

"It would be ideal for people with no beliefs to be able to conduct marriages. It should be open to all so that couples have complete choice over who will marry them."





Question 15

Do you think that the current policy should be liberalised and that marriage ceremonies should be allowed to take place in more locations than currently?

In total, there were 253 responses to this question and 245 (96.84%) respondents answered 'yes'. There were 45 comments received and the majority of these were positive, with 37 respondents agreeing to some extent that the current policy should be liberalised. Four comments raised concerns surrounding ceremonies taking place in public places and believed this should be regulated. Two comments noted that it should be the celebrant that is licensed and not the location. One comment disagreed explaining that it would make marriage less serious.



Some comment examples:

"And this should be permitted, equally, for religious ceremonies (including Anglican/Church of England marriages)."

"Definitely! We are surrounded by beautiful beaches and it would be lovely to be able to marry on one."

"A lot more liberalised."

"Absolutely. I was astounded at the limited choice of civil marriage venues when I chose to marry and the fact that it was not possible to have a civil wedding on a Saturday!"

"I very strongly support this. It would be good for the customer, hospitality and the Island."

"It will just become a show like in America and not something serious."

"Having worked in tourism for many years, destination weddings are a considerable large portion of tourism income. To offer more locations (such as beaches, Little Chapel, gardens and parklands) would be a benefit to the income of Guernsey tourism as well as to boost to local businesses such as caterers, florists, wedding planners, hoteliers etc."

"This should be on the understanding that public places, i.e. Beaches are not for sole use of the ceremony & that access is still available for the public to use these locations as they wish"

"Consideration should be given to locations that are publically owned. I.e. should people have to apply for a licence to conduct a marriage ceremony in such a location?"

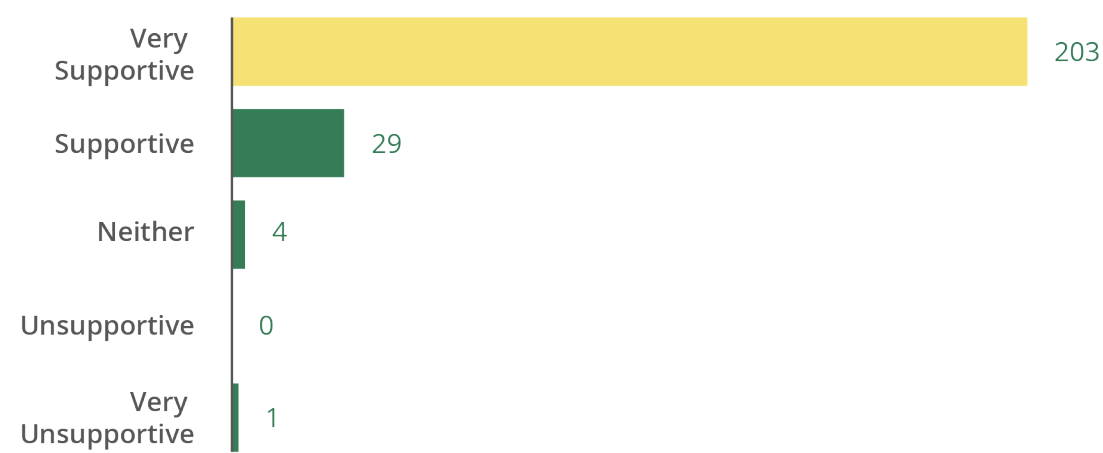




Question 16

How supportive would you be of marriage ceremonies being held in more venues such as hotels and public buildings?

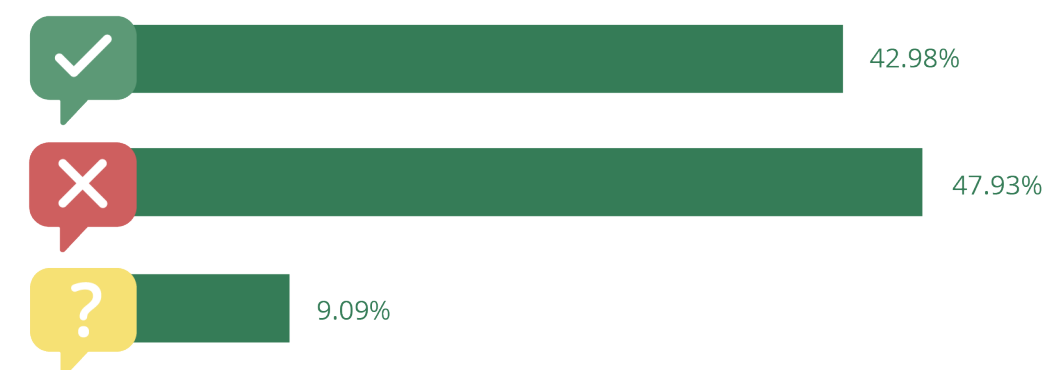
237 respondents provided an answer to this question. 203 (85.65%) were very supportive of the idea of marriage ceremonies being held in more venues with only one (0.42%) respondent being very unsupportive of the question.



Question 17

Do you think that some form of control, such as a registration or licencing system should be put in place if more buildings can hold ceremonies?

There were 242 responses to this question. Just under half of the respondents 116 (47.93%) replied 'no' to some form of control for buildings. 104 (42.98%) respondents replied 'yes'. There were 27 comments on this question, 14 comments were in favour of no registration or licencing system. Seven comments suggested that in some way there should be some form of registration and licensing (mainly for health and safety). Six respondents believed that registration should be with the celebrant and not the building.



Some comment examples:

"Venues should meet safety standards & their use should not impact on nearby residents i.e. Noise control"

"A simple process - a record held of places who are willing to hold ceremonies."

"No need - why should they have to apply for a license? License should rest with celebrant"

"I think that there should be as little bureaucracy as possible and would be against further admin being involved in registering buildings etc."

"Would be easier to put this at the discretion of the authorised performer of the marriage. Could specifically exclude some types of location if really necessary"

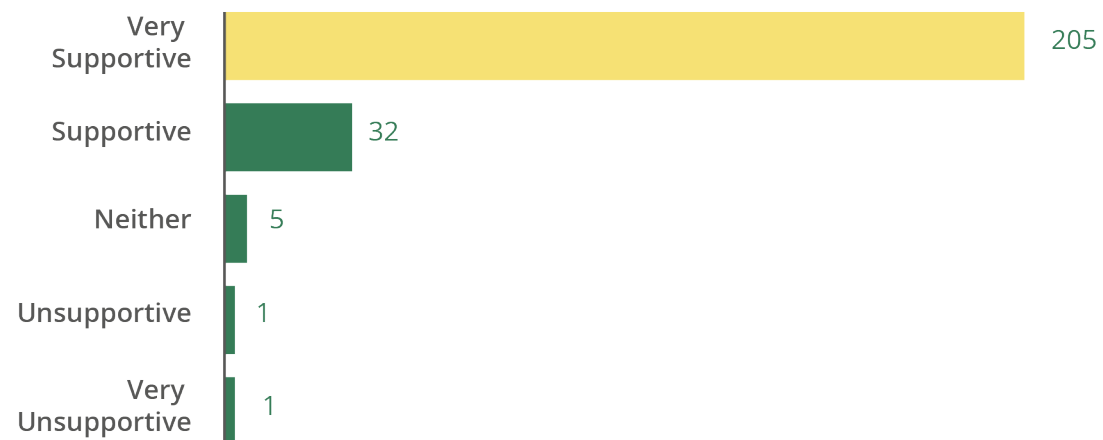




Question 18

How supportive would you be of marriage ceremonies being held outside in areas such as a beach or a private garden?

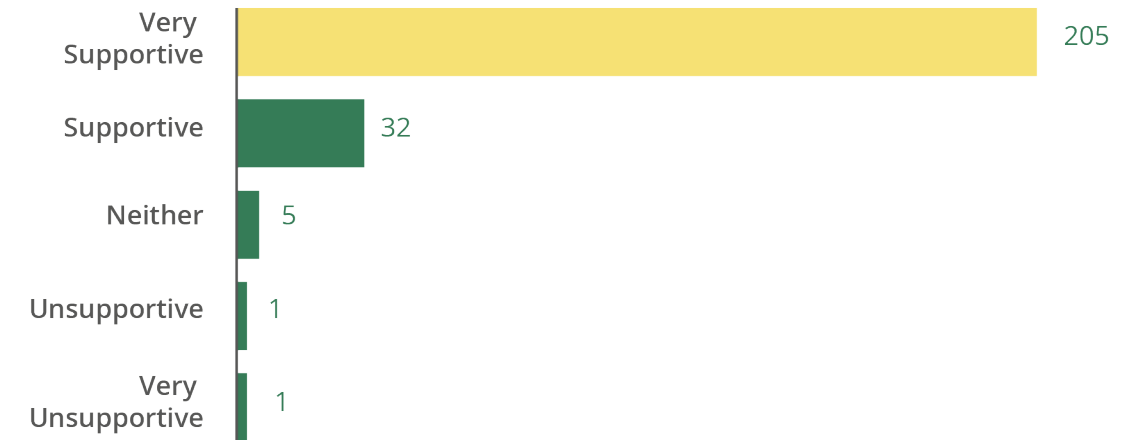
In total, there were 244 responses and the majority of respondents were either very supportive (205, 84.02%) or supportive (32, 13.11%).



Question 19

How supportive would you be of marriage ceremonies being held outside on a boat in territorial waters?

Overall, there were 244 replies to this question, with 211 respondents either very supportive (162, 66.39%) or supportive (49, 20.08%).





Question 20

Which of the following statements do you agree with regarding the requirements for locations where ceremonies might be conducted?

This question asked respondents which statement relating to requirements for locations they agreed with. 244 respondents answered the question and the responses received are ranked below.

Rank	Option	Responses
1	Couples should be free to marry wherever they wish and therefore there should be no other requirements	134 54.92%
2	No additional requirements should be needed for buildings other than the existing legal requirements, such as commercial use classification and registration, fire and safety regulations and venue capacity restrictions	129 52.87%
3	The celebrant should have the authority to object to holding a ceremony if the location is deemed unfit	112 45.90%
4	All locations, whether in a building or outside, should meet the same set of conditions to ensure that they are safe and sufficiently dignified to hold a marriage ceremony including those held outside	82 33.61%
5	All locations should require prior approval from the celebrant	70 28.69%
6	Religious buildings should continue to be used for religious ceremonies only	64 26.23%
7	All buildings where marriage ceremonies take place should be registered at the Greffe	62 25.41%
8	The Greffe should approve all locations where marriages can take place	47 19.26%

Some comment examples:

"Consideration should be given to the venue & surrounding land use to ensure no impact to those not involved in the ceremony"

"Celebrants objecting to a location should only mean that the celebrant does not have to conduct the ceremony. The couple should still be within their rights to find an alternative celebrant who is willing to conduct the ceremony in that location. It is up to each religious body to decide how its buildings are used and if they decide that they are happy for non-religious ceremonies to be conducted in their buildings then that would be a lovely option for non-religious couples but not something that will be forced on anybody either way."

"I do believe couples should be free to marry wherever they wish but there should also be other requirements that are checked by the celebrant"

"Safety should be paramount, there should also be no financial element involved for places with general public access"

"Dignity is important; it might be a happy day, but it is a most solemn undertaking."

"I feel the celebrant should be licensed to ensure a proper ceremony & so they could check that the venue is appropriate."

"I would have ticked needing to meet conditions to ensure the location is safe, but I wouldn't agree with the 'sufficiently dignified' part as I feel that is hugely subjective. If a venue such as a sporting venue is close to a couple's heart, I think it should be an option for them, and wouldn't want it to be excluded if it wasn't deemed 'dignified enough'"

"Simple check by the celebrant is all that is required. Don't make work for yourselves by having some sort of register"

"Although the wishes of the couple are paramount I believe as a serious legal contract that the marriage should be conducted in a place significantly dignified for the purpose but that is a very objective matter. The Greffe has no business having authority over these venues but the celebrant, as a suitably qualified service provider selected by the couple should be able to opine and have some authority"

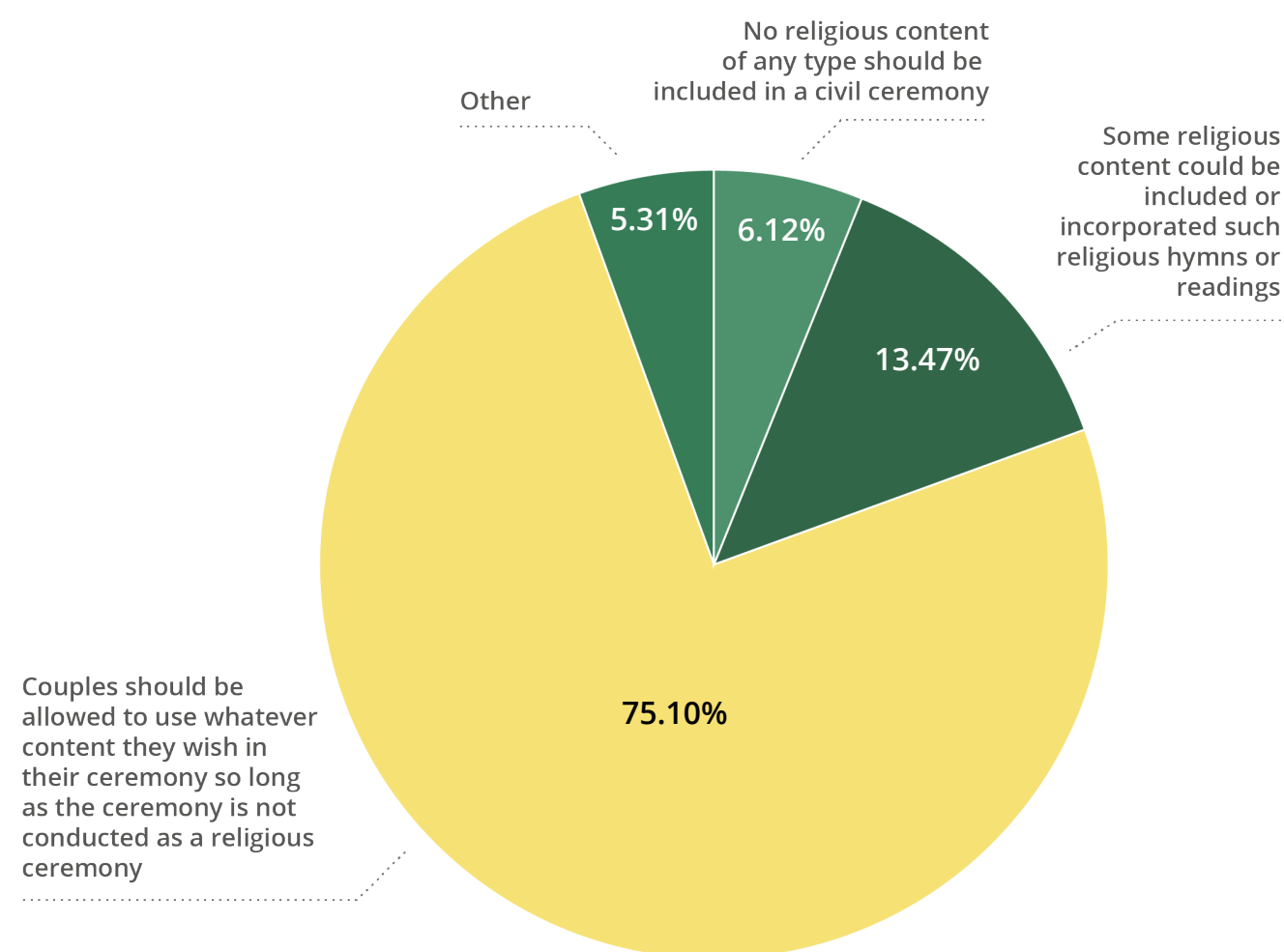
"1. Public access is important - venues where marriages can take place without public access should not be tolerated.
2. Clearly churches and the Church must control what goes on within its buildings (The Anglican Churches should not be regarded as the property of the States by the States)."



Question 21

Which of the following statements best supports your view on the content of civil ceremonies (and non-religious belief ceremonies should they be approved)?

In total, 245 answers were submitted. Of these 184 (75.1%) of respondents believed that 'couples should be allowed to use whatever content they wished in their ceremony so long as the ceremony is not conducted as a religious ceremony'. Of the 13 responses provided for the 'other' section, 11 of these surrounded allowing the couple to choose the content they wanted with no restrictions. Two comments were of the opinion that some religious content could be included or incorporated into the ceremony.

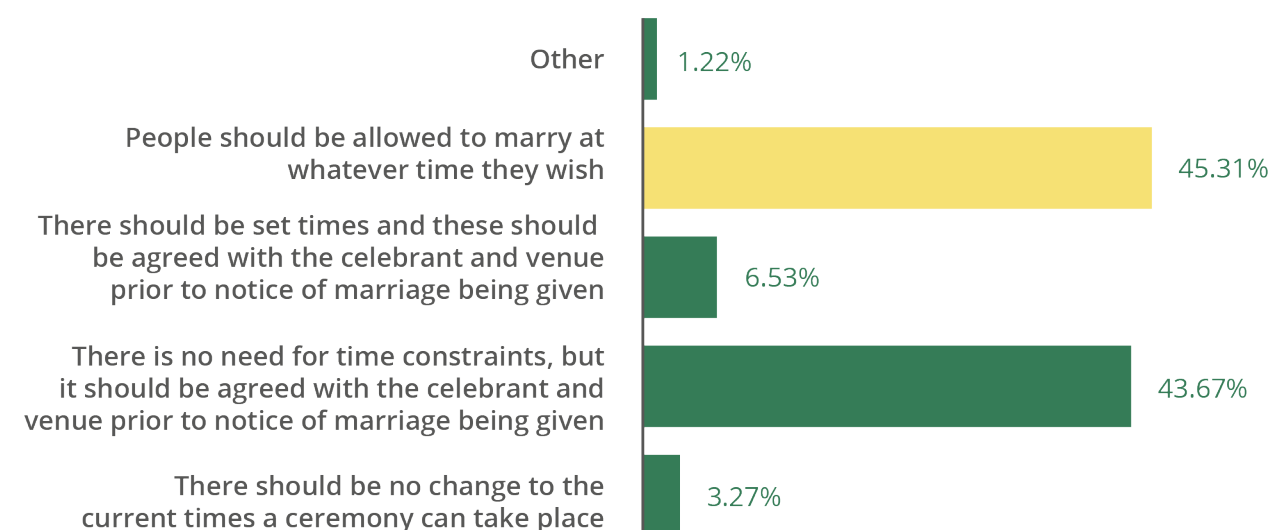


Question 22

Which of the following statements do you most agree with in relation to when a marriage ceremony should be held?

From 245 responses the top two choices were:

- People should be allowed to marry at whatever time they wish (111, 45.31%).
- There is no need for time constraints, but it should be agreed with the celebrant and venue prior to Notice of Marriage being given (107, 43.67%).



There were three respondents who answered 'other':

"There should be time window constraints, preferably within daylight hours, as this will also dictate times of celebrations following the wedding ceremony."

"Some liberalisation of times is not objectionable but you really don't want to allow marriages in the hours of darkness - sends a whole lot of unfortunate messages."

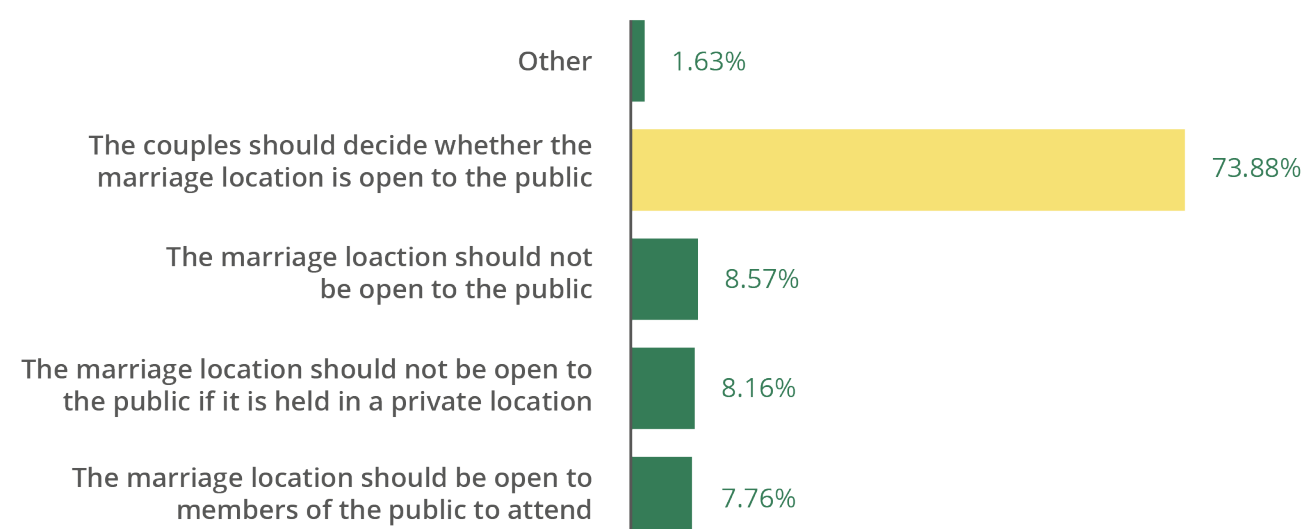
"If it is agreed between the celebrant and the couple, then do what you want, might cost you more, but do what you want. A night-time marriage could be very romantic!"



Question 23

Which of the following statements best supports your views on the subject of whether marriages should be open to the public including marriages conducted in private residences?

Overall, there were 245 responses to the question. Most respondents chose 'the couples should decide whether the marriage location is open to the public', selected by 181 (73.88%) respondents.



Four respondents chose 'other', their responses were:

"Agree with point 2. Also, if possible if approved by relative body/panel a public location could be hired at a cost to hold a private ceremony?"

"The couple should decide but if they choose a public space (a beach/Park) they cannot stop the public engaging."

"The couples should decide - except for marriages in public places that should remain open to the public."

"If you choose a building venue, e.g. church, hotel, or similar venue, then you can opt for public exclusion. If you choose a public venue, e.g. normally accessible by the public such as beach, Fairfield, Candie Gardens, or a park, the public must not be excluded. Whilst some may wish to attend, others do not want this imposed upon them."



Part 4

Additional views not already captured above



Question 24

Do you have any additional comments to make in relation to this review?

There were 54 responses to this question, ten (18.53%) of these were 'no' comments. The remaining comments were –

- ▶ Ten (18.53%) respondents were of the view that a review was overdue and it was good that it was now taking place;
- ▶ Six (11.11%) comments mentioned the need for flexibility, modernisation and simplification in the process;
- ▶ Five (9.26%) comments added that they were happy with the proposals as long as safeguards were in place;
- ▶ Five (9.26%) comments noted that the proposals would be good for marriage tourism and couples should be able to marry outside;
- ▶ Four (7.41%) believed that religion should have less influence over marriage and couples having non-religious ceremonies should be free to have religious elements in their ceremony if they wished;
- ▶ Three (5.55%) respondents noted that the couple should decide how the marriage is carried out;
- ▶ Three (5.55%) respondents noted that it was important to have celebrants adhere to certain standards;
- ▶ Two (3.70%) comments believed the Greffe should extend their hours;

- ▶ One (1.85%) comment noted the importance of not losing sight of the solemnity of marriage;
- ▶ One (1.85%) noted that the review should not be used to attack the church;
- ▶ One (1.85%) raised concern over allowing marriage celebrations taking place in public places;
- ▶ One (1.85%) believed that religious ceremonies should take place after the civil ceremony;
- ▶ One (1.85%) comment also mentioned that Humanists UK have information on different marriage authorisation regimes; and
- ▶ One (1.85%) noted that identification for marriage should be photographic.

Some of the comments were:

"I think it is fantastic that this law is being reviewed. Marriage is about two people who love each other and they should be able to dedicate that love in whatever way and place they see fit and incorporate their own beliefs."

"This needs to be a big deregulation of pointless rules."

"Clearly a review is long overdue."

"I think it's excellent that's this antiquated law is being reviewed - not before time."

"I am a bit old fashioned, I realise, but people getting married can sometimes

lose sight of the whole purpose of the occasion and the ceremony becomes no longer the centre of the celebrations. I don't think we should lose sight of the special nature and solemnity of these proceedings and if it makes someone think twice about getting married because they can't get the venue of their choice, then I don't believe that is entirely a bad thing."

"We were unable to have the marriage we wished for due to the law, hopefully this will change for couples in the future."

Next steps

This report will be published on the **www.gov.gg/marriagelaw** site and the findings from the consultation will be used to refine the proposals. Following which a policy letter will be prepared for the States of Deliberation to consider later in 2018.