

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

17 JUNE 2025

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

REDWORTH HALL HOTEL, REDWORTH, DARLINGTON

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application for the renewal of a licence to be an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships in accordance with the provisions of:
 - (a) The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994);
 - (b) The Civil Partnership Act (2004);
 - (c) The Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and 2021; and
 - (d) The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

Summary

2. Redworth Hall Hotel is seeking to renew its' licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships. The hotel's current approved premise licence is due to expire on 31 July 2025. The standard period for a licence as an approved venue for civil marriage and civil partnership is three years. Redworth Hall Hotel are seeking a renewal of its licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships to commence for three years following expiry of its existing licence until 31 July 2028.

Information

3. Redworth Hall Hotel is Darlington's most popular venue for civil marriage and civil partnerships with ceremonies having always worked successfully and there are no issues which would adversely affect this application.
4. Redworth Hall Hotel has maintained its position as Darlington's most popular venue for civil marriage and civil partnership ceremonies for many years and the hotel has an important role to play on the local and regional economy, attracting couples and their guests for weddings locally, regionally and nationally. The hotel has bookings for weddings for 2025, 2026 and 2027 which would require a continuation of its licence of civil marriages and civil partnerships beyond 31 July 2025.
5. The current locations and capacities hotel for civil marriages and civil partnerships at Redworth Hall Hotel are:

Venue:

Redworth Hall

GRO Premise No: 002268

Current Licence Expires: 31.07.2025

Room	Maximum Capacity
The Great Hall	150
Kelvington Suite	100
Prince Bishop Suite	280
The Minstrels Gallery	20
The Restaurant	100
The 1744 Room	80
Cocktail Bar	50
The Summerhouse (outside structure)	6

Notes:

1. Maximum capacities do not include the couple being married, registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff.
2. Outdoor marriages/civil partnerships can take place at any location within the boundary of the venue.
3. Where an outdoor structure has been approved for marriages/civil partnerships the maximum number of persons within the approved structure is the couple being married and their witnesses and excludes registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff. The number of guests located outside of the structure is unlimited and does not form part of the maximum capacity of the structure.
6. The majority of civil marriage and civil partnership ceremonies take place in the Great Hall although larger ceremonies can take place in the Prince Bishop Suite and smaller ones in the Kelvington suite or 1744 suite. The hotel also offers outdoor ceremonies at the Summerhouse. The remaining designated areas are principally licensed for business continuity purposes. Only one ceremony takes place per day at the hotel.
7. The fee payable to the relevant Local Authority for the renewal of a licence for civil marriages and civil partnerships is £1925.00. The Hotel have paid this fee in advance of this application.
8. Redworth Hall Hotel is a large hotel with all its areas designated for civil marriages and civil partnerships being fully accessible for guests with disability and mobility needs.
9. Redworth Hall Hotel are seeking to renew its licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships for a further three years from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028 without any changes to the locations or capacities already designated.
10. The local authority granting the licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships can specify the duration of the licence and also attach any specific

conditions to that licence. The standard licence for civil marriage and civil partnerships has historically been three years.

Financial Implications.

11. There are future bookings for marriage and civil partnerships at Redworth Hall Hotel beyond the expiry of the current licence on 31 July 2025 with ceremony bookings and advance payments having been made for ceremonies taking place into 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Legal Implications.

12. The renewal of a licence to be an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships to be held at the Redworth Hall Hotel, Hurworth, Darlington is required to meet existing contractual bookings beyond the current ceremony licence which expires on 31 July 2025
13. The application a renewal of a licence for civil marriages and civil partnerships for a further three years which is the standard period of renewal.

Conclusions.

14. Members are asked to grant the renewal of the licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships to Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth, Darlington for a three-year period with effect from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028.

Recommendations.

15. It is recommended that a licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships be granted to Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth, Darlington for three years from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028 and that the places designated where civil marriages, and civil partnerships can take place and maximum capacity in those designated areas be:

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Reasons.

16. To facilitate existing and future bookings for civil marriages and civil partnerships at Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth, Darlington.

**Amy Wennington, Assistant Director, Law and Governance and
Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District**

Background Papers.

Application for renewal of a licence for civil marriages and civil partnerships from Redworth Hall Hotel dated 2 May 2025.

Anthony Hall, Superintendent Registrar.