

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
02 DECEMBER 2025

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

THE HALL GARTH HOTEL, COATHAM MUNDEVILLE, 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. The Hall Garth 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 9 January 2026. The standard period for a licence as an approved venue for civil marriage and civil partnership is three years. The Hall Garth Hotel is 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 from 10 January 2026 until 10 January 2029.

Information

3. The Hall Garth Hotel is one of Darlington's most popular venues for civil marriage and civil partnerships with ceremonies having always worked successfully and there have been no issues for the duration of this current licence which would adversely affect this application.
4. The Hall Garth Hotel has maintained its popularity as a 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 2026, 2027 and 2028 which would require a continuation of its licence of civil marriages and civil partnerships beyond 9 January 2026.

5. The current locations and capacities hotel for civil marriages and civil partnerships at The Hall Garth Hotel are:

Room	Maximum Capacity
Summerson Suite	220
Brafferton Suite	120
Residents Lounge	25
Stables Bar Conservatory	40
Restaurant	40
Conservatory	50
The Lounge	30
The Secret Garden Gazebo	6 (unlimited guests outside of the gazebo)

Note:

The maximum capacity relates to guests and does not include the couple being married, the registrars, photographers, videographers or employees of the venue managing the event.

Most of the civil marriage and civil partnership ceremonies take place in either the Brafferton Suite or outdoors at the Gazebo with the remaining approved areas being licensed for business continuity purposes in the event of an emergency. Only one ceremony takes place per day at the hotel.

All the areas designated for civil marriages and civil partnerships at the Hall Garth Hotel are on the ground being fully accessible for guests with disability and mobility needs and all the indoor areas designated are on the ground floor.

6. The Hall Garth Hotel is seeking to renew its licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships for a further three years from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2029.
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 been invoiced for this fee.
8. The local authority granting the licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships can specify the duration of the licence and attach any specific conditions to that licence. The standard licence for civil marriage and civil partnerships has historically been three years.

Financial Implications.

9. There are future bookings for marriage and civil partnerships at The Hall Garth Hotel beyond the expiry of the current licence on 9 January 2026 with ceremony bookings and advance payments having been made for ceremonies taking place in 2026 and 2027 and 2028.

Legal Implications.

10. The renewal of a licence to be an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships to be held at The Hall Garth Hotel is required to meet existing contractual bookings beyond the current ceremony licence which expires on 9 January 2026.
11. 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.

12. Members are asked to grant the renewal of the licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships to The Walworth Castle Hotel, Darlington for a three-year period with effect from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2029.

Recommendations.

13. It is recommended that a licence as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships be granted to The Walworth Castle Hotel, Darlington for three years from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2029 and that the places designated where civil marriages, and civil partnerships can take place and maximum capacity in those designated areas be:

Room	Maximum Capacity
Summerson Suite	220
Brafferton Suite	120
Residents Lounge	25
Stables Bar Conservatory	40
Restaurant	40
Conservatory	50
The Lounge	30
The Secret Garden Gazebo	6 (unlimited guests outside of the gazebo)

Note:

The maximum capacity relates to guests and does not include the couple being married, the registrars, photographers, videographers or employees of the venue managing the event.

Reasons.

14. To facilitate existing and future bookings for civil marriages and civil partnerships at, The Hall Garth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville, 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 The Hall Garth Hotel.

Anthony Hall, Superintendent Registrar.