

Call for SNP to lift the 'wedding bells ban'

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The Scottish Conservatives will tomorrow seek to lift the ban on marriages taking place in Scotland as part of emergency coronavirus legislation.

Although there's no formal prevention in place, registrars have stopped taking weddings for fear of being overwhelmed by the increased number of deaths occurring in recent weeks.

Now Scottish Conservative MSP Adam Tomkins will put down amendments to the legislation in Holyrood to change that.

He wants couples to be able to undertake formal marriage and civil partnership proceedings, providing they can be done in accordance with attendance restrictions and social distancing measures.

The Glasgow MSP pointed out that the ability to marry was a human right, and not one which should be restricted during a period of lockdown.

Scottish Conservative MSP Adam Tomkins said:

"We all understand why the restrictions are in place, and that it would be impossible to throw large wedding parties at the moment.

"But the fundamental right for a couple to get married is a human right, and not one that should be restricted.

"There are plenty of places in Scotland where couples could safely get married, with the required three other people in attendance, and a necessary social distance.

"There are couples around Scotland who want to take this next step in their lives, and the Scottish Government should be now allowing them to do so.

"Lifting this wedding bells ban would go some way to achieving this."