

## **2 REGISTRARS OFFICE - SATURDAY OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS (AN194-2002)**

Reference is made to the minute of meeting of the Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee of 22nd February 2002 wherein a review of the structure and operating arrangements for the Registrars resulted in an arrangement whereby the office at 89 Commercial Street opens on Saturdays for registrations (by appointment) from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and appointments are available for weddings from 12 to 4 pm (usually at 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm and 3.15 pm).

Experience has shown that demand for appointments for registrations on Saturdays is very low, averaging out across the month at one birth and one death per Saturday. On the other hand, there are occasions when if two or three weddings are booked, and there are any delays with any of them, there can be insufficient time to reset rooms and prepare for the following ceremony. This problem will be exacerbated by the provision of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 which of course permits civil marriages to be performed outwith registration offices. The additional time for travelling between venues may make it difficult for the on-duty registrar to get to venues on time.

It is therefore recommended that the time allowed for registrations on Saturday be amended to 9.30 am to 10.30 am with weddings being performed between 11 am and 4 pm, with appointments preferable being available at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. This to take effect from 1st September 2002 though existing bookings will be honoured.