How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In support

The right to freedom of choice is a fundamental pillar of my beliefs. I therefore support any bill that gives legal recognition to what is essentially a consensual and harmless activity. Furthermore, by legitimizing gay relationships within a legal framework, the Scottish government can take large strides towards ensuring further tolerance and acceptance of a historically persecuted group of individuals. It is my hope that bigotry towards the LGBT community will be largely reduced within the next generation as a result of this bill.

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In support

A marriage which is based on love should always be supported by our government - regardless of the gender mix within the marriage.

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In support

If that is how the couple wish to define their relationship, they should be permitted to change from a civil partnership to a marriage. They should equally have the right to retain their civil partnership status if that is their wish.

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

In support
This links back to my belief about freedom of choice. If the couple have agreed a venue with the registrar and are happy with it, I see no reason why the government should feel any need to be involved.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?**

In support

Providing it has been agreed between the couple and the religious body, I have no problem. However, if the religious body does not wish to conduct the ceremony, it should be within their rights to refuse.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?**

In support

A loving couple should have a right to marriage, irrespective of their gender - this includes those who have changed gender at any point in their life.

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?**

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?**

**Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?**

**Are you responding as...**

a private individual

Gavin Ferguson
14 August 2013