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

In support

The Bill has undergone a great deal of work to get it to this point, ensuring that a range of views are considered.

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

In support

It is clearly the next step in terms of creating true equality for all of Scotland's people. Civil partnership was an important step forward at the time, but as society has evolved, it is only right that we move to allow marriage for all...after all, if it's called the same thing, it will not be seen as equal.

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

In support

All belief and religious celebrants should be entitled to perform or refuse to perform any form of marriage - be it same-sex or mixed-sex. As they are not state employees, they should not be compelled to perform a marriage ceremony.

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)?

In support

Celebrants that work for a religious organisation should be entitled to choose. State employed registrars should perform any marriage ceremony requested.

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

In support

It would feel odd to have another ceremony of 'marriage' when my family and friends have already celebrated our relationship. I would hope that it would be a simple administrative procedure to 'upgrade' and that the marriage would be back-dated to the date of our civil partnership ceremony.
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

Absolutely in favour.

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

In support

People should be able to have the kind of ceremony they wish.

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

The trans community feels let down by the law in England & Wales requiring a spouse to give permission for gender re-assignment surgery. We must ensure that the law does not provide for a spousal veto, while at the same time allowing for the non-trans spouse to seek a solution which does not require them entering into a same-sex marriage against their will.

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

If people are against same-sex marriage, they shouldn't marry someone of the same sex. My relationship has no bearing on someone else’s life.

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?

With regards to the continuation of civil partnership, we cannot move to a situation where we have extra rights for same-sex couples who would have the option of either marriage or CP. Civil Partnership should either be removed and all current CPs 'upgraded' or CP should be available to all couples. It would be absurd to have the LGBT community fighting for equality, and then to be afforded greater rights than mixed sex couples.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Grant Fraser
14 August 2013