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

In support

NHSGGC supports and welcomes the bill as a step forward in terms of equality in Scotland and believe it strikes the right balance between the rights of different equality groups.

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

In support

We support the rights of LGBT people to have equal rights and believe that the bill, by introducing marriage for same-sex couples, will remove an existing discrimination.

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

In support

This seems to reflect the current situation for different sex-couples so should be the same for same-sex couples.

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

We support the opt-in procedures as a way to balance the rights of different equality groups.

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

In support

We support the option of being available to change from a civil partnership to a marriage without a going through a marriage ceremony and would support an amendment to the bill which allowed marriages not registered in Scotland to be included (as they are for different-sex marriage).

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 seems to reflect the current situation for different sex-couples so should be the same for same-sex couples.

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

In support

This option should be available.

**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?**

We are concerned with the inclusion of “spousal consent” in the bill for transgender people as it effectively enables the spouse of a trans person to prevent their partner from obtaining gender recognition, unless the trans person is able to obtain a divorce which, if the non-trans spouse is unwilling to cooperate, could take many years. Gender recognition should not be linked to spousal consent in this way.

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

We support the opt-in and opt out provisions in the bill as a way of striking the balance between the rights of different equality groups, however we would not support opt-out for civil registrars who are delivering a public service.

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

We believe this is clarified adequately in the bill.

**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 public body

Jackie Erdman
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
23 August 2013