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

In opposition

Marriage is as presently defined is for heterosexual couples in a loving life long commitment involving procreation, nurturing any offspring to adulthood. It is the method in nature to ensure the survival of the human race. Homosexual couples have not been selected for this purpose as is clear in the percentage of homosexuals in the human race - approx 2%. It is not clear what new legal rights that same sex couples would receive in marriage as opposed to civil partnerships.

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

In opposition

Marriage involves any children which may be born through the union of a man and a woman. It is the care of these children which is paramount. It is not clear what commitment there will be between two men/women in this regard.

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

In opposition

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 opposition

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

In opposition

In as much as civil partnerships do not claim to be marriages but are a commitment between a man and a woman to live in a loving relationship with all the protection that the law of the land gives to them. This is equivalent to the protections given to those who are married and changing a title is of no significance

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 opposition
I object to the question. because it lacks clarity. If you are referring to civil partnerships I am quite happy that they conduct the ceremony anywhere other than religious premises.

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

In opposition

**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

I have clear knowledge of a similar situation.

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

Currently a homosexual couple is planning to go to court to force churches to host gay weddings. It is likely that this will be settled by the European Court of Human rights. Any protections attempted by Scottish Law are likely to be overturned. Human rights law has not protected adoption agencies. Article 9 in the European court of Human rights, i.e. the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion has not provided protection in the face of other rights. Teachers should not be compelled to teach about same sexed marriage and parents should be allowed to withdraw their children when such lessons are being taught. Parents must have the legal right to know when such lessons are going to be taught. Legislation must be put in place to protect people in employment giving them freedom of speech and security of employment and freedom to opt out in procedures concerned with same sex marriage. Police should be thoroughly educated in the legislation which results so that false arrests do not take place because of their ignorance or prejudice. There is ample evidence that this takes place. No one should be prevented from adopting or fostering because they hold to the current definition of marriage and this needs to written into law and must be legislative change.

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

Freedom of speech must be protected at all costs so that in society people may agree to differ. Education does not thrive where freedom of speech is not the rule. Society becomes totalitarian, corrupt, repressive and controlling. Democracy begins to be akin to a political dictatorship. Freedom of speech must be legislatively secure.

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

Charitable status must not be removed from charities who disagree with same sexed marriage. This includes religious groups who do so much caring work in society and without whose support social services would not be able to cope, particularly in
urban situations. The law should be amended to embody the protection of such charities and secure their charitable status.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Ralph Wylie
13 August 2013