

ANNEX G: RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM AND QUESTIONS

REVIEW OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIP IN SCOTLAND

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM



Please Note. If you are responding by hard copy through the post this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately. This form does not need to be completed when replying through Citizen Space as Citizen Space contains mandatory fields asking for details of the person or body responding to the consultation and whether the person or body is happy for their response to be published.

Responses to this consultation must either be on-line through Citizen Space or hard copy.

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church (Faith and Order Board)

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr
Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Stuart

Forename

John

2. Postal Address

General Synod Office

21 Grosvenor Crescent

Edinburgh

Postcode EH12 5EE	Phone 0131 225 6357	Email secgen@scotland.anglican.org
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3. I am responding from:

Scotland Rest of United Kingdom Overseas

4. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / Group/Organisation

Please tick as

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?
Please tick as appropriate
 Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, your responses may be made available to the public on the following basis
Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate
 Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?
Please tick as appropriate Yes No

Questions

Question 1. Please provide any additional arguments you wish to make in favour of the no change option.

We agree with the arguments put forward by the Scottish Government in section 2.04 of the Consultation Paper. To make further changes at this stage, given the fact that marriage law has only been changed in the very recent past, seems premature.

Question 2. Please provide any additional arguments you wish to make against the no change option.

We consider that the Government would be justified in taking a pragmatic approach which recognises the reality of the situation arising as a result of the recent changes to marriage law made in Scotland, albeit that we acknowledge that this maintains a status quo (by continuing the current imbalance) which is less tidy than some might wish.

Question 3. Please provide any additional arguments you wish to make in favour of the option of no new civil partnerships being entered into from a date in the future.

We have no comment to make.

Question 4. Please provide any additional arguments you wish to make against the option of no new civil partnerships being entered into from a date in the future.

We would wish to agree that there are likely to be some same sex couples who, notwithstanding the fact that marriage between same sex couples is now recognised in law, nevertheless regard marriage as inappropriate for same sex couples. Some such couples may hold such a view for religious, or other, reasons. To withdraw the availability of same sex civil partnerships would leave such couples without any formal civil recognition of their relationship.

Question 5. Do you have any comments on the Government's view that there are insufficient reasons for introducing opposite sex civil partnership in Scotland? If yes, please outline these comments.

We would agree with the view expressed by the Government expressed in the Consultation Paper but would also observe that it could be argued that the introduction of opposite sex civil partnerships might undermine the institution of marriage. Marriage is undertaken as a lifelong commitment providing stability not only for the married couple themselves but also for any children cared for by the couple. At a time when there appears to be increasing instability in family life, the introduction of an alternative form of recognition for opposite sex relationships might be seen as unhelpfully undermining the stability provided by the lifelong commitment given by the parties to a marriage.

Question 6. Please provide any comments you have on the partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA), on the partial Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and on the screening report for the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA).

We have no comment to make.