

23 January 2014

News from the Government Equalities Office

Equal Marriage

Following the December announcement of the timetable for implementing the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, the Government has today laid before Parliament a series of Statutory Instruments which (subject to the approval of Parliament) will:

- ❖ Enable same sex couples to marry in civil and religious ceremonies from 29 March 2014
- ❖ Allow marriages of same sex couples in in some British consulates and armed forces bases overseas, and make arrangements for marriages of same sex couples in military chapels, from 3 June 2014.

You can find more information about the Statutory Instruments, and a link to them, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/creating-a-fairer-and-more-equal-society/supporting-pages/equal-marriage-for-gay-lesbian-bisexual-and-trans-people-and-protecting-lgbt-rights>

The Government has also today published its response to the consultation paper 'The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013: Shared Buildings Regulations', which sought views on the procedures for registering for marriages of same sex couples religious buildings that are shared by more than one religious organisation. The response document is available here:

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/marriage-same-sex-couples-act-2013>

Civil Partnership Review

The Government has today published a consultation paper on the future of civil partnership in England and Wales. This is the full public consultation required as part of the review of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 under the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013. The consultation runs until 17 April 2014, and you can read and respond to it here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-england-and-wales>